

What is claimed is:

- 1        1. A system for automated configuration of access to a wide area network  
2 comprising:  
3              an application server computer comprising:  
4                  an interface to said wide area network;  
5                  control software for detecting the type of connection available for use  
6                  by said system over said interface and for configuring use of said wide area  
7                  network by one or more users; and  
8                  means for storing user configuration and security information;  
9              a communications link providing a signaling pathway for said computer over  
10             said wide area network through said interface; and  
11             a control center accessible by said computer over said communications link,  
12             said control center adapted to automatically detect the presence of said computer  
13             on said wide area network area it is connected to said communications link via said  
14             interface, said control center further adapted to provide automatic registration,  
15             configuration and protection of said computer so that said one or more users are  
16             able to achieve access to and use of said wide area network.
- 1        2. The system of claim 1 wherein said communications link is a T1 phone line.
- 1        3. The system of claim 1 wherein said communications link is a digital  
2             subscriber line (D.L.).
- 1        4. The system of claim 1 wherein said communications link is an Integrated  
2             Services Digital Network (ISDN).

5. The system of claim 1 wherein said communications link is a Cable wide area network connection.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein said communications link is a wireless wide area network connection.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein said communications link is an analog telephone line.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein said control software further comprises a firewall to protect users from unauthorized access.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein said firewall further comprises a network address translator (NAT) protocol.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein said control software further comprises a virus protection program.

11. The system of claim 1 wherein said application server computer further comprises a means for facsimile (Fax) communications.

12. The system of claim 1 wherein said application server computer further comprises means for utilizing one e-mail domain.

13. The system of claim 1 wherein said application server computer further comprises means for retrieving e-mail for users from said wide area network.

- 1       14. The system of claim 1 wherein said application server computer further  
2       comprises a virtual private network which allows several computers to communicate  
3       via said wide area network .
- 1       15. The system of claim 1 wherein said application server computer further  
2       comprises a means for caching world wide web pages to allow fast recall of  
3       previously visited web pages.
- 1       16. The system of claim 1 wherein said application server computer further  
2       comprises means for users to connect to said wide area network simultaneously  
3       through an Internet Service Provider.
- 1       17. The system of claim 1 wherein said control center further comprises means  
2       to update said application server computer.
- 1       18. The system of claim 1 wherein said control center further comprises means  
2       to troubleshoot said application server computer.

- 1       19. An application server computer for automating access to a  
2 wide area network by one or more users comprising:  
3              an interface to said wide area network;  
4              control software for detecting the type of connection available for use through  
5 said interface and for configuring use of said wide area network by one or more  
6 users; and  
7              means for storing user configuration and security information,  
8              wherein said control software is adapted to cause said computer to  
9 automatically communicate with a remote control center through said interface in  
10 order to configure access by said one or more users to said wide area network.
- 1       20. The computer of claim 19 further comprising means for receiving updates  
2 from said control center.
- 1       21. The computer of claim 19 further comprising means for receiving  
2 troubleshooting from said control center.
- 1       22. The computer of claim 19 wherein said control software further comprises a  
2 firewall to protect users from unauthorized access.
- 1       23. The computer of claim 22 wherein said firewall further comprises a network  
2 address translator (NAT) protocol.
- 1       24. The computer of claim 19 wherein said control software further comprises a  
2 virus protection program.
- 1       25. The computer of claim 19 further comprising means for facsimile (Fax)  
2 communications.

1        26. The computer of claim 19 further comprising means for utilizing one e-mail  
2           domain.

1        27. The computer of claim 19 further comprising means for retrieving e-mail for  
2           said users from said wide area network.

1        28. The computer of claim 19 further comprising a virtual private network which  
2           allows several computers to communicate via said wide area network without.

1        29. The computer of claim 19 further comprising means for caching world wide  
2           web pages to allow fast recall of previously visited web pages.

1        30. The computer of claim 19 further comprising means for said users to connect  
2           to said wide area network simultaneously through an Internet Service Provider.

1        31. The computer of claim 19 further comprising means for accepting a Global  
2           Positioning Satellite Location signal.

1        32. The computer of claim 31 further comprising means for  
2           communicating said location signal to said control center.

1       33. A program product residing in a computer and adapted to cause said  
2       computer to achieve automated configuration of access to a wide area network by  
3       one or more users, said program product comprising:

4              logic means for interfacing to said wide area network;

5              logic means for detecting the type of connection available for use by said  
6       system over said interface and for configuring use of said wide area network by one  
7       or more users; and

8              logic means for storing user configuration and security information.

1       34. The program product of claim 33 further comprising logic means for a firewall  
2       to protect users from unauthorized access.

1       35. The program product of claim 34 wherein said logic means for a firewall  
2       further comprises logic means for a network address translator (NAT) protocol.

1       36. The program product of claim 33 further comprising logic means for virus  
2       protection.

1       37. The program product of claim 33 further comprising logic means for  
2       facsimile (Fax) communications.

1       38. The program product of claim 33 further comprising logic means for utilizing  
2       one e-mail domain.

1       39. The program product of claim 33 further comprising logic means for  
2       retrieving e-mail for said users from said wide area network.

1       40. The program product of claim 33 further comprising logic means for a virtual  
2       private network.

1       41. The program product of claim 33 further comprising a logic means for  
2       caching world wide web pages to allow fast recall of previously visited pages.

1       42. The program product of claim 33 further comprising a unique identification  
2       number.

1       43. The program product of claim 42 further comprising logic means for  
2       communicating with a control center.

1       44. The program product of claim 43 further comprising a logic means for  
2       confirming said unique identification number with said control center.

1       45. The program product of claim 44 further comprising a logic means for logging  
2       IP addresses of computers communicating with said program product over said  
3       wide area network.